ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.1
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Fourth meeting
Geneva, 26–28 May 2015
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Informal notes on the agenda

Note by the secretariat

This paper presents an overview of agenda items (in chronological order), associated documentation (official, informal "INF" and other) and actions that the delegates may consider to take.

Please recycle

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
Tuesday, 26 May	10.00–10.15	**1. Adoption of the agenda**	• Provisional agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/1) • (These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.1) *Delegates may also wish to refer to:* • Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 5–6 February 2015 • Report of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP) and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP/MOP) (ECE/MP.EIA/20-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4), including the decisions adopted by the two bodies o ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.1 and ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1/Corr.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.1/Corr.1 o ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.2-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.2 o ECE/MP.EIA/20-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.3	• The **Working Group** is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting.
	10.15–11.15	**2. Status of ratification**	• Status of ratification (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.2) • Note by the secretariat on the entry into force of the first amendment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.3)	• **Delegations** will be invited to report on planned ratifications of the Convention and its two amendments. In particular, **each Party to the Convention** that has not ratified the two amendments will be expected to report on its preparations for ratification; **delegations of the 15 States that were Parties to the Convention** at the time of adoption of the first amendment (27 February 2001) will be invited to provide detailed

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
				information on steps taken towards ratification. • **Delegations/Signatories of the Protocol will be invited** report on its preparations to ratify the Protocol. • **Delegations** will consider the informal note prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs regarding the implications of the entry into force of the amendment and possible avenues to promote the global application of the Convention as soon as possible. At the proposal of the Bureau, the note includes the possibility of adoption of a separate Agreement modifying article 17, new paragraph 3, and entering to force through a non-objection procedure. • The **Working Group** is expected to agree on specific actions to encourage ratification of or accession to the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol, and in particular to facilitate the entry into effect of the first amendment as soon as possible.
Tuesday, 26 May 11.15–13.00 and 15:00–16:30	11:15–11:45	**3. Compliance and implementation**	• Report of the Implementation Committee on its 31st session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2014/4) • Report of the Implementation Committee on its 32nd session ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2013/6) • Report of the Implementation Committee on its 33rd session (advance copy) • Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.4) • Note on Espoo and Aarhus cases (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.8)	• **The Chair of the Implementation Committee** will report on the Committee's 31st, 32nd and 33rd sessions. • In view of the cases pending before the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention that are relevant also under the Espoo Convention, the **Working Group** is expected to discuss ways to ensure a coherent approach to the interpretation of the two instruments.

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
Tuesday, 26 May	11:45–12:30	**3. Compliance and implementation (*cont'd*)**	• Timetable for the preparation of the fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the second review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.5) • Draft questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.6) • Draft questionnaire on the implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.7)	• The **Working Group** is expected to agree on the finalization of the questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and Protocol. • The **Working Group** is also expected to agree a detailed timetable for the submission of completed questionnaires, and for the generation of the draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the second review of implementation of the Protocol.
	12:30–13:00		• [*as listed above*] Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.4) • Terms of reference for the preparation of the guidance on the implementation of the Convention (EIB)	• **Representatives** of **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova** and **the Russian Federation** will be invited to report on the technical advice they have received in developing national and transboundary EIA procedure. • The secretariat will report on the planned provision of technical advice to Uzbekistan and the **Working Group** will be invited to consider reallocation of the funds, if necessary. • The secretariat and the **EIB** will report on the preparation of guidance on the implementation of the Convention (drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee)
	15:00–16:00		• Concordance table on the authentic texts of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.9)	• The **Working Group** will consider the list of inconsistencies identified by the UNOG Editors and will establish a task force to examine possible inconsistencies between the authentic language versions of the Protocol and to prepare proposals to bring the three language versions into line for the Working Group's consideration at its next meeting.

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
Tuesday, 26 May	16.00–16.30	**3. Compliance and implementation (*cont'd*)**	• [*as listed above*] Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.4) *Delegates may also wish to refer to:* o Opinions of the Implementation Committee, 2001-2014 o Structure and functions of the Implementation Committee, and procedures for review of compliance and consolidated operating rules (as amended in 2014)	• The secretariat will report on the publications processed since the Meetings of the Parties in June 2014.
	16:30–17:00	**4. Subregional cooperation and capacity building**	• [*as listed above under item 3*] Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.4)	• A **representative of Germany** will be invited to report on the holding of a subregional cooperation workshop for the Baltic Sea area. • The secretariat and, as appropriate, representatives of lead countries (**Morocco, Lithuania, Latvia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Ukraine**) will be invited to report on the organization of other activities for subregional cooperation and capacity-building foreseen in the workplan • A representative of **Romania** will be invited to report on the status of the Bucharest Agreement signed by ministers from South-Eastern Europe. The other countries of South-Eastern Europe are expected to report on actions taken to ratify and implement and the Agreement and on arrangements for the first meeting of the Parties.

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
Tuesday, 26 May	17:00–18:00	**5. Exchange of good practices** **(a) Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities**	• [*as listed above under item 3*] Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.4) • Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities / Terms of Reference (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/3)	• The **Working Group** will consider the draft terms of reference and will agree on their finalization. • The **Working Group** will establish an editorial group on the basis of nominations by Parties and other stakeholders, including Austria, Belarus, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, the European Commission and the European ECO Forum.
Wednesday, 27 May	10:00–13:00	**(b) Seminar on post-project analysis**	• Background information, including the programme – note by the secretariat (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.10)	• **Belarus** will chair the seminar and will invite the **European Commission** to moderate. • The **Working Group** may decide to take follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.
	15:00–15:30	**(c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan**		• The secretariat and representatives of the **EIB** will be invited to report on any other activities foreseen in the workplan relating to the exchange of good practices.
	15:30–16:00	**(d) Proposed activities not included in the workplan**	• Scope and overview: development of joint good practice recommendations on land-use planning – together with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (EIB)	• The secretariat and the **EIB** will report on the development of joint good practice recommendations on land-use planning, together with the Industrial Accidents Convention and possibly the Committee on Housing and Land Management; and the organization of a related workshop in 2016. • The secretariat will report on the responses received from countries benefitting from the legislative assistance received as regards the possibility of a workshop to share experiences about recent processes of drafting legislation and

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
				developing institutional capacity on EIA and SEA. • The **Working Group** is expected to consider the proposed activities and decide on follow-up actions.
Wednesday, 27 May	16:00–18:00	**6. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA**	• [*as listed above under item 3*] Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.4) • IAIA informal pamphlets *Delegates might also wish to refer to:* • Note on the progress of the implementation workplan activities financed by the EU through the "Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood"(EaP-GREEN) Programme (Dec 2013–May 2015)	• **Delegates** will be invited to propose cases in which the Protocol has been applied for the preparation of fact-sheets on the application of SEA, and the **representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)** will be invited to report on the preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice • Representatives of involved countries **(Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine**), or the secretariat will be invited to provide information on the development of legislation on SEA, and on future plans. • Representatives of **lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**), or the secretariat, will be invited to report on the preparation of the subregional overview based on legislative reviews of EIA and SEA. • Representatives of **lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine)**, of the secretariat, will be invited to report on the preparation of national guidance documents on SEA. • Representatives of **lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan and Ukraine**), or the secretariat, will be invited to report on workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
				held or under preparation. • Representatives of **lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation)**, or the secretariat, will be invited to report on preparations for pilot projects. • A representative of **Kyrgyzstan**, or the secretariat, will be invited to report on further development and update of the Guidelines on EIA in a transboundary context for Central Asian Countries. • The secretariat will be invited to report on actions to prepare communication materials.
Friday, 28 May	10.00–noon	**7. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance**	• Biannual financial report • Information note regarding funding of the ECE MEAs (prepared by the secretariat)	• The secretariat will present the biannual financial report for the second biennium 2014. • **Delegations** might report on additional contributions to the trust fund of the Convention. • The **Chair** will report on the information note regarding funding of the ECE MEAs, adequate staffing and sustainability of services, prepared by the secretariat, and its consideration by the Bureau. • The **Working Group** is expected to consider the note and provide guidance on the direction for a decision to be adopted by the next MOP to ensure a more predictable and sustainable scheme of financing.
	Noon–12:30	**8. Inputs to related international processes**	Meetings of the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE Environmental treaties and the Committee of Environmental Policy • Chair's summary, 27 October 2014 • Chair's summary, 13 April 2015	• The **Working Group** is invited to comment the outcomes of the informal meetings between the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE MEAs and the CEP, held in Geneva, on 27 October 2014 and 13 April 2015.
	12:30–	**9. Preparations**	(*none*)	• The Chair of the Bureau and the secretariat are

Day	*Time*	*Agenda item*	*Documents*	*Actions*
	13:00	**for MOP7 and MOP/MOP3**		expected to report on any offers by countries to host the MOP7 and MOP/MOP3 • **Delegations** may be invited to consider hosting the MOPs • The **Working Group** may consider to advise the Bureau on further actions to be taken
	15:00–15:30	**10. Staffing of the secretariat**	(*none*)	• The secretariat will report on the staff composition
	15:30–16:00	**11. Other business**	(*none*)	
	16:00–17:30	**12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**	(*none*)	• The **Working Group** is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting.